

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 SS-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20 DRC-01 /144 W

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R 120752Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1546

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PULN IS, SY, EG

SUBJ: PAK REACTION TO MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND INFO MEDIA HAVE ALL EXPRESSED FERVENT SUPPORT FOR ARAB SIDE IN MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. GOP HAD ANNOUNCED INTENTION SEND MEDICAL TEAMS TO SYRIA AND EGYPT. NO OTHER TANGIBLE ASSISTANCE OFFERED. PUBLIC CRITICISM OF US FOR ITS SUPPORT OF ISRAEL HAS SO FAR BEEN RELATIVELY MUTED. END SUMMARY.

1. GOP HAD TAKEN NUMBER OF STEPS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS ALL-OUT MORAL SUPPORT FOR ARAB SIDE IN MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. PRIMIN BHUTTO SENT MESSAGES TO SADAT AND ASSAD OCTOBER 8 EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY OF PAK GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WITH ARABS AND PRAYING THAT "THE JUST CAUSE OF THE ARAB PEOPLE WILL TRIUMPH IN THE END." BHUTTO ALSO DISPATCHED MESSAGE TO UNSYG URGING THAT SECURITY
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COUNCIL "TAKE IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO HAVE OCCUPIED ARAB

TERRITORIES VACATED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY" RATHER THAN MERELY CALLING FOR CEASE-FIRE. IN TELEVISED PUBLIC STATEMENT WHEN OPENING SPECIAL MEETING WITH ARMED FORCES CHIEFS AND CABINET MINISTERS OCTOBER 11, PRIMIN PLEDGED TO DO "WHATEVER WE CAN WITHIN OUR LIMITED RESOURCES" TO HELP ARABS. HE AGAIN CALLED FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES RATHER THAN MERE CEASE-FIRE, ENDORSING SC RES 242 AS "BASIS FOR A SETTLEMENT." WHILE GOP COULD NOT OPPOSE DETENTE BETWEEN GREAT POWERS, HE SAID, SUCH DETENTE SHOULD NOT BE AT EXPENSE SMALLER NATIONS. HE DECLARED THAT PAKISTAN WAS "NOT OPPOSED TO ANY PEOPLE OR TO ANY COUNTRY" BUT WAS DETERMINED TO UPHOLD ITS PRINCIPLES AND ITS "INDEPENDENT POSITION" WHATEVER THE GREAT POWERS MIGHT DO. PURPOSE OF MEETING WITH ARMED FORCES CHIEFS, HE EXPLAINED, WAS TO DISCUSS SITUATION AND DETERMINE HOW PAKISTAN COULD HELP ARABS "TPTHIN OUR LIMITED RESOURCES."

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 11 THAT GOP HAD DECIDED SEND TWO MEDICAL TEAMS "IMMEDIATELY" TO EGYPT AND SYRIA. MFA SPOKESMAN DENOUNCED "THE TERROR UNLEASHED BY ISRAELI WAR PLANES ON DEFENSELESS CENTERS OF CIVILIAN POPULATION" AND SAID MEDICAL TEAMS WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE SUFFERINGS OF "OUR AFFLICTED BRETHREN." SAME DAY, ARAB AMBASSADORS INSVSLAMABAD WERE CALLED TO MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY WHO, ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS, EXPRESSED FULL SOLIDARITY WITH "JUST AND GLORIOUS"ARAB CAUSE AND PLEASURE AT ARAB COMBAT PERFORMANCE.

3. POLITICAL LEADERS OF ALL STRIPES HAVE ISSUED STATEMENTS DENOUNCING ISRAEL AND VOICING SUPPORT FOR ARABS. INFOR- MATION MINISTER CALLED ON POPULACE TO PRAY FOR ARAB VICTORY AGAINST "ISRAELI MILITARISM AND ZIONIST EXPANSIONISM." OTHER CABINET MINISTERS, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER, AND MULTITUDE OF OTHER POLITICIANS HAVE JOINED IN CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL, AS HAVE ORGANIZATIONS RANGING FROM BAR ASSOCIATIONS TO STUDENT GROUPS. MEDIA COVERAGE HAS BEEN UNTENSELY PRO-ARAB AND PRONE TO OVER-PLAY EXTENT OF ARAB MILITARY SUCCESSES, ALTHOUGH ISRAELI CLAIMS ARE ALSO REPORTED FARTHER DOWN IN TEXT. EDITORIAL COMMENT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS EXPECTED, HAS BEEN RABIDLY ANTI-ISRAEL. SOME OPPOSITION POLITICIANS FROM RELIGIOUS PARTIES AND VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF NONGOVERNMENT PRESS HAVE TAKEN CRACKS AT US FOR ITS SUPPORT OF ISRAEL, BUT VOLUME SUCH CRITICISM STILL RELATIVELY LIGHT.

COMMENT: GOP HAS TRADITIONALLY TAKEN STRONG PRO-ARAB POSITION IN MIDDLE EAST, REFLECTING BOTH EMOTIONALLY

ISLAMIC ORIENTATION OF MUCH OF POPULACE AND GOP DESIRE
FOR RECIPROCAL SUPPORT FROM ARABS. AT SAME TIME, GOP
HAS OTHER PROBLEMS CLOSER TO HOME AND ITS SUPPORT OF
ARABS LIKELY TO BE CONFINED TO POLITICAL AND VERBAL
BACKING PLUS SUCH GESTURES AS OFFER OF MEDICAL TEAMS.
NOTABLE THAT PRIMIN BHUTTO'S OCTOBER 11 TELEVISED
REMARKS WERE RELATIVELY RESTRAINED; WHILE EXPRESSING

FULL SUPPORT FOR ARABS, HE SPOKE IN NON-RHETORICAL
TONES AND EVEN REFRAINED FROM DECLARING ISRAEL THE

AGRESSOR.
SOBER

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